

Early Disaster Planning Eases Suffering

Through an on-going disaster preparedness program, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has provided non-food relief to victims of both the drought in mid-western districts, and the floods and landslides in neighboring areas.



In the summer of 2006, an estimated 58,180 people in 15 districts were affected by flooding, with Banke, Bardiya and Achham districts hardest hit. In these areas, more than 400 packages of non-food relief have been distributed in Bardiya and 200 packages in Achham; these packs of plastic tarpaulin, woolen blanket, plastic mattress, kitchen utensils, clothing for family, mosquito net (as per the need), and health and hygiene kits, benefited approximately 4,200 people.

Seasonal flooding in Nepal causes significant loss of life and property; in 2006, in 15 districts of Nepal, dozens of people died, thousands of people were displaced, and countless homes and livelihoods were lost in flooding and landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains. It is precisely for these types of disasters that USAID's Office Foreign Disaster Assistance for many years has supported a disaster preparedness and relief program. This program is now implemented in 28 of Nepal's most disaster prone areas. Since 2004, \$985,000 has been allocated for this on-going program, and it has extended immediate humanitarian relief to almost 75,000 individuals in and around the project areas; almost half of these have been children. The program builds the ability of local government and NGOs to prepare and respond to disasters; it provides disaster non-food stockpiles to relief networks, and supports the immediate distribution of those items to victims when disaster hits.